

Photos: Missouri Botanical Garden

Prairie Onion

Allium stellatum

Light: Full Sun, Partial Shade

Soil: Sand, Loam

Moisture: Dry, Medium

Benefits: Pollinators, Deer Resistant

Height: 1'-2'

Blooms: Jul, Aug

Zones: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Color: Pink, Lavender

Spacing: 6"

Root: Bulb

Prairie Onion's showy lavender flowers bloom in the heat of summer with leaves often dying back by the time of flowering. Best in full sun, the plant is low maintenance and easily grown in average, well-drained soil. Prairie Onion is an ideal rock garden plant and will grow in the most inhospitable conditions, including dry sandy soils and rocky cliffs.

The common name is based on the oniony smell that occurs when any part of the plant is cut or bruised. Unwanted spread can be controlled by deadheading flowers before seed set.